

# Aristotle

- Plato gave form to many of the main problems of literary criticism. Aristotle, his student, gave many of the best answers the questions raised by Plato. He is primarily concerned to ask the questions 'what exactly is the piece of literature? What is its function and what are its constituent parts? But his teacher Plato had largely concerned only on one question 'what is the value of literature?.
- Aristotle begins by differentiating between the three main kinds of poetry known to the ancient Greeks – the epic , dramatic poetry ( tragic and comic ) and lyric poetry.
- He difference between comedy and tragedy , in simple terms the main difference between comedy and tragedy is that the comedy is a humorous story with happy ending that makes the audience laugh while tragedy is a serious story with sad ending , it always deals with

**extraordinary person who is led to downfall through his own weakness.**

- **Aristotle has chosen to focus on tragedy rather than epic ‘ because all the elements of epic are to be found in tragedy, but not all the qualities of tragedy are to be found in the epic . finally he concludes that tragedy is the superior form.**
- **Aristotle goes on to consider what elements constitute the form of a typical tragedy : plot, character, diction, thought, spectacle, and song.**
- **A tragic hero is a literary character who makes a judgment error that inevitably leads to his/her own destruction. In reading Antigone, Medea and Hamlet, look at the role of justice and/or revenge and its influence on each character’s choices when analyzing any “judgment error.**